Below are statements, or propositions. On your research paper, choose ONE of these propositions and then *agree or disagree* with it. You may choose a topic different from the ones listed here, but I must approve the topic *before* you begin to write your paper. After you have stated your position, or argument, you will support it with *evidence* you find in your research. Remember, whether you agree or disagree has no impact on your grade. The success with which you SUPPORT your argument has a huge impact on your grade. Minimum 1,000 words (not including Works Cited section), double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font, one inch margins, MLA format [see Purdue OWL for guidance].

1. The Progressives were more than simply egotistical people who thought they could use human reason and science to make the world a better place. They introduced caring into politics and the way America thinks about the role of government.
2. New technologies that nations can exploit to expand their power almost always bring war.
3. The world today mirrors the world situation just prior to World War I. We must hone our awareness about events that could trigger World War III.
4. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was far more overreaching than the Treaty of Versailles. To say that the Treaty of Versailles itself was the actual seed for World War II is to completely misunderstand deceitful use of propaganda.
5. World War I did more than any other single event in history to bring world peace for the long-term.
6. World War I was the event that ought to have launched the broader Civil Rights Movement in America. It did not. Although African Americans had proved their courage, patriotism and capabilities during both the Civil War—over 50 years prior to World War I—and during World War I, entrenched white interests persevered, and harmed the Black effort to rise until well into the 20th century.
7. The Great Depression of the 20th century was a preview of events that will occur again during the 21st century. One of the main reasons for the Great Depression was the disparity in wealth. This disparity is happening again and may very well be a core cause of yet another great depression.
8. The United States’ need for economic growth and national defense justified its intrusion into the affairs of Latin America during the early 20th century. General Smedley Butler did not see the whole picture when he said that, “war is a racket.”
9. The United States should fight wars to promote democracy. History has demonstrated convincingly that democracy, while not perfect, is far better than all other ways of managing a society.
10. Franklin Roosevelt’s “New Deal” failed on two scores. First, it did not end the depression. Second, it opened the door to socialism, which has weakened American capitalism over the long run.

Good web sites for researching your paper (in alphabetical order):

<http://www.besthistorysites.net/>

<http://www.biography.com/>

<http://www.infoplease.com/>

[www.learner.org](http://www.learner.org)

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

<http://www.us-history.org/>

DC Public Library: Biography in Context; Student Resources in Context

Many sites exist. Find a few you like and *use them throughout the year*. Web sites can be used the same as a book with which you have grown comfortable.

*"The best wrestler is not he who has learned thoroughly all the tricks and twists of the art, which are seldom met with in actual wrestling, but he who has well and carefully trained himself in* ***one or two of them, and watches keenly for an opportunity of practicing them****." Seneca, quoting Demetrius the Cynic*

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| Assignment Rubric |
| ARGUMENT: You stated your argument clearly. In your introduction, you told the reader what examples you would use to support your position. |
| SUPPORT: You included 3 or more examples that supported your position statement. You used *specific* information. |
| ORGANIZATION: You organized your paper for clear reading. You completed one idea before moving to the next idea. |
| CITATIONS: In the paper, you cited sources to back up your support statements. For **each** new fact statement, you cited a source. You used correct formatting in both the citations and the Works Cited section at the end on a separate sheet of paper. |
| CONCLUSION: You concluded in a way that left the reader understanding and believing your position. You restated your argument in a way that the reader could understand better because he/she had now read your paper. |
| WRITING MECHANICS: You corrected errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation. You avoided slang and abbreviations. You used active voice. |
| TECHNICAL FORMAT: You completed the assignment using Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spaced with 1” margin. MLA. Paper is required length. |